

Group III, claim 15, which depends from claim 1, drawn to an embodiment within claim 1.

The claims of the present application have been further subjected to an "Election of Species" Requirement, such that that Applicants have been required to select single disclosed species relating to:

- (a) fluorine-containing elastomeric copolymers;
- (b) vulcanizing agents; and
- (c) vulcanization accelerators.

Response to Unity of Invention and Election Requirements

In response to the above-noted Unity of Invention Requirement, Applicants elect the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1-7 and 10-14, with traverse.

In response to the above-noted Election Requirement, Applicants elect Example 1, which includes the following species:

- (a) a fluorine-containing elastomeric copolymer of vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropylene;
- (b) a vulcanizing agent of bisphenol AF (note page 8, line 11 and page 18, line 16); and
- (c) a vulcanization accelerator of DBU-B (note page 9, lines 18-19 and page 18, lines 16-17).

Note that all of the elected species (a)-(c) are found in Example 1, upon which Applicants base this election. This election is made with traverse.

The claims, which read on the above-elected species (a)-(c) include claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Traversal of Unity of Invention and Election Requirements

The Unity of Invention Requirement is respectfully traversed, since all the claims of the present application share at least one "special technical feature". First, note that all of dependent claims 2-15 ultimately depend from claim 1. The fact that the Examiner may not agree that claim 1 in its present form is patentable over the prior art is irrelevant in this regard, since the Office Action of August 5, 2003 fails to identify any "special technical feature", which is present in the claims of one Group, such as Group I, but absent in another Group, such as Groups II and III.

The Election Requirement is also respectfully traversed. Under applicable PCT Unity of Invention Rules as it is clear that Applicants are allowed to employ terms such as "fluorine-containing elastomeric copolymer" without having to limit the claims to a

specific species of a single type of copolymer. The method of the present invention relates to a variety of these types of copolymers, for which there is no serious burden placed on the Examiner for conducting appropriate searching and substantive examination.

In view of the above, it is requested that both the Unity of Invention and Election Requirements be withdrawn.

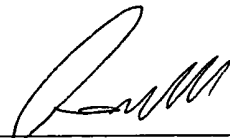
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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